

S/N 09/855,182
Client Ref. No.: 659-700

connections. As a threshold matter, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that no claims are generic. Rather, at least claims 1-3, 6-9, 22-24, 27-29, 32 and 34 appear to be generic to the enumerated species. In addition, Applicants submit that at least claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-16, 19, 20, 22-25, 27-30, 32-38, 40-44 and 46-48 are readable on the elected species. Accordingly, Applicants have not cancelled any claims.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicants respectfully request that claims 24 and 39 be rewritten as follows:

A1

24. (Amended) The invention of claim 22 wherein said absorbent element is fixedly connected to said chassis at said first location with a primary bond, and wherein said first portion of said absorbent element is detachably connected to at least one of said second portion of said absorbent element and said chassis at said second location with a secondary bond, wherein said secondary bond is weaker than said primary bond.

A2

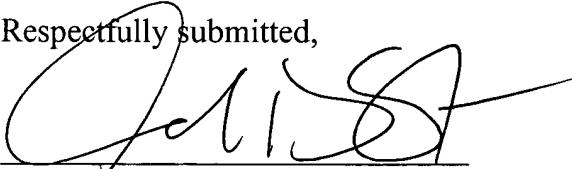
39. The invention of claim 32 wherein said absorbent element further comprises a cover sheet, wherein said cover sheet is bonded to said chassis with said primary bond at said primary bond region, and wherein said cover sheet comprises said first and second portions of said absorbent element, wherein said first portion of said cover sheet is bonded to said chassis with said secondary bond at said secondary bond region.

S/N 09/855,182
Client Ref. No.: 659-700

Applicants have amended claim 24 so as to provide antecedent basis for "said absorbent element." Applicants have further amended claim 39 to improve the clarity and form thereof. A marked-up version of the amended claims is provided at Appendix A. Any questions concerning this election or amendment should be directed to the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713.

Date: October 24, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew D. Stover
Registration No. 38,629
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200